

MINUTES
ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
MAY 13, 2013 – 4:30 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 1

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Len Mediavilla, Rita Schmidt, Luke Singh, Zell Steever, John Sutherland, Syma Ebbin, Genevieve Cerf (4:44 pm),
Excused: Michael Murphy, Gary Schneider
Mark Oefinger, Bill Robarge, Bill Jankowski, Bob Quevreaux
Staff: Norris

Schmidt called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of meeting of April 8, 2013

MOTION: To approve the minutes of April 8, 2013 as amended.

Motion made by Schmidt, seconded by Sutherland. Motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS - None

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion of Energy Action Plan for Groton

Some committee members thought they did not receive all the worksheets for the building energy tools Excel files which were in the consultant's report. Staff confirmed that the entire Excel workbook was emailed, but some may not have been aware that there are tabs in the workbooks for other sheets in the report.

Staff briefly discussed how the consultant did the energy audits on buildings.

The committee concurred that most of the work done by Peregrine is in the appendices. The executive summary does not make specific recommendations or directives. The back part is well done, but does not correlate to the recommended plan. Zell suggested the committee go to the appendices and work forward to identify specific recommendations with goals, percentages, periods of time, and talking points for the Council. The committee needs to see CIP projects well in advance to make recommendations to Town staff. Some CIP projects could be grouped together.

The committee commented on the state energy reduction policy, energy initiatives for municipalities, energy sources and production, energy conservation, green energy, fossil fuel energy, and natural gas. Staff explained that the Town building audits were based on current energy use, and recommendations were made based on what currently exists in the buildings. The audit was not detailed, but enough information was provided to determine what should be done to the buildings. A more detailed analysis of a building would be performed at the time a project would be undertaken.

Home energy audits versus commercial building audits were discussed briefly. The committee discussed the availability of tools to measure heating days, etc., to make recommendations for improvements to Town buildings. Len Mediavilla said that Groton Utilities has an online tool provided by Energy Depot, and that information will be provided in the Groton Utilities quarterly mailer, as well as on their website, *grotonutilities.com*, for

residential properties. Groton Utilities is also doubling lighting rebates for residential and commercial customers, until September.

Capital improvements were included in the report, but daily maintenance opportunities were not necessarily included. Rebates or financing opportunities for the Town as well as for residents and town businesses need to be identified. Staff said this goal was recently added to the Economic Development Specialist job description. It was suggested that the document be placed online with hotlinks to the appendices on the first nine pages. The committee had a brief discussion on vehicle reports and the evaluation and replacement of Town vehicles. The committee is interested in what steps various departments in the Town may be taking now to increase energy efficiency. There currently are no incentives for reduction within Town departments. Luke will share a previous annual energy presentation that he has done for Electric Boat to give some guidance with regard to goal setting, basis for percentages.

It was recommended that committee members read and bring questions to the next meeting, along with suggestions on how the report could be more specific, to discuss how to get from the back of the report to the front. It was suggested that it might be better to reframe or reorganize the report in the same way Town decision-making operates. Mind-mapper, a software program, was suggested as a way to visually convert brainstorming ideas into an outline or list.

Two other issues were not included in the report; subdivisions or fire districts, and how they go about incorporating the entire community, i.e. long-term plans, building and zoning codes, energy star, LEED-certified, and other opportunities to assist the public.

V. REPORT OF STAFF

John Sutherland asked other members who had not yet done so to submit their bios.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Prepared by Debra Gilot, Office Assistant III